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# REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1896

OF

DR. RAILTON,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

Urban District Council of Withington.

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Area of the District in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,728
Population (1891) Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	23,838
Population (1896) Estimated...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27,500
General Death-rate per thousand Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	11·4
Infant Death-rate per thousand Births...	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
Birth-rate per thousand Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	21·5

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# REPORT

## UPON THE

# Urban District Council of Withington

### FOR THE YEAR 1896.

#### I.

*Tabular Statement of the Mortality within the district, classified according to diseases, ages, and localities.*

It is satisfactory to record that the rate of mortality during the past year in the Withington Urban District was lower than that of 1895, and compares most favourably with that of any of the preceding ten years, 1894 being the only year having a lower death-rate. The number of deaths which occurred amounted to 315, and the number of births to 602. Calculated upon the basis of an estimated population of 27,500, the death-rate is 11·4, while the birth-rate is 21·5. It is also gratifying to note the consistently low death-rate which is observable in the district during the past ten years (as shown in Table I.) in spite of the gradually rising tendency to disease, inseparable from an increase of population.

TABLE I. \*

*Comparison of the death-rates and birth-rates from 1887 to 1896.*

	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891 Census.	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896
Estimated population...	20,568	21,426	22,284	23,142	24,000	24,700	25,400	26,100	26,800	27,500
Total number of deaths	289	281	318	311	363	340	330	284	329	315
Annual death-rates.....	14·0	13·1	14·2	13·4	15·0	13·7	12·9	10·8	12·2	11·4
Total number of births	506	503	547	484	548	540	548	542	577	602
Annual birth-rates .....	24·6	23·4	24·5	20·9	22·8	21·8	21·5	20·7	21·5	21·5

\* In this and many of the following tables corresponding figures of previous years are given so as to afford a means of comparison.

Of the 315 deaths, 19 took place in the Chorlton Union Workhouse among the inmates admitted from within the district.

It will be observed in this table that the birth-rate is about the same as in the previous six years.

Table II. shows the ages at which the deaths occurred, arranged in "age-groups." For the sake of comparison the figures of 1895 are given as well. It will be seen that the deaths last year between one year and five years are considerably in excess of the number of

TABLE II.

<i>Table of the ages at which the deaths occurred in 1895 and 1896.</i>		
	1895	1896
Under 1 year of age .....	69	67
Between 1 year and 5 years.....	17	31
Between 5 and 15 years.....	6	7
Between 15 and 25 years .....	15	16
Between 25 and 65 years .....	120	119
Over 65 years of age .....	102	75

the previous year, and that those over sixty-five are smaller in number than those of 1895, the remaining figures being almost stationary, although the population has steadily increased.

The 67 deaths under one year constitute more than a fifth of the total number at all ages.

The ordinary method of estimating the death-rate at this age shows that they form 11·1 per cent. of the births. This constitutes a slight improvement over the corresponding ratio of 1895, when it was 11·9. It may be of interest to reproduce the figures of the immediately preceding years: in 1894, the infant mortality was in the proportion of 9 per cent. of the births; in 1893, 15 per cent.; in 1892, 12 per cent.; in 1891, 10 per cent. It will perhaps be remembered that 8 per cent. is considered to be the standard rate in a healthy country district.

Table III classifies the causes of death in these 67 cases.

TABLE III.

<i>Causes of death under one year of age.</i>				
I. Pulmonary diseases.	Bronchitis, &c.	.....	12	
II. Infectious diseases ..	{	Measles .....	1	... 6
		Whooping cough .....	5	
III. Diet diseases .....	{	Diarrhœa .....	6	... 23
		Wasting and gastro-intestinal catarrh..	9	
		Convulsions.....	8	
IV. Congenital diseases.	{	Cong.syphilis .....	1	... 23
		Premature birth and debility .....	20	
		Tuberculosis .....	1	
		Chronic Hydrocephalus .....	1	
V. Other causes .....	{	Suffocation .....	2	... 3
		Not classified .....	1	
				67

Of these deaths, 41 occurred under the age of three months, 8 between three and six months and 18 between six and twelve months. It will be observed in these figures what a very large proportion the deaths which occurred before the children reached the age of three months bear to the total. This is to be explained by the large number (19) of cases of premature entrance into life or of other obscure conditions of congenital debility rendering the children inviable. Other deaths are ascribed to convulsions and wasting (8 cases), of which the cause in some instances has been congenital, but in others has doubtless been improper feeding; bronchitis (9 cases), and whooping cough (2 cases), both exceedingly fatal diseases in the early period of infancy; diarrhoea (2 cases), and finally, congenital specific disease (1 case). It is thus seen that the principal cause of death under three months has been constitutional weakness affecting the infants at the time of their birth, but that as regards some of the remaining deaths, with better care or perhaps under better conditions, we are justified in concluding that they might have been prevented.

The deaths at ages between three and six months were much fewer than in either younger or older infants. One was from



immaturity, one from tuberculosis, one from wasting, three were from bronchitis, and two from suffocation.

Between the ages of six months and one year eighteen deaths occurred. Of these, five were caused by wasting and gastrointestinal catarrh, three from convulsions, and four from diarrhoea, all of which are classed as diet-diseases. Three deaths were occasioned by whooping cough, one was from measles, while the remaining two were the result of diseases we need not consider.

Careful attention to this list of deaths in infants cannot fail to impress one with the belief that there is still much to be done in the way of educating those responsible for the care of infant life. Putting aside the deaths which were occasioned by congenital weakness or by unavoidable disease, there still remains a number, amounting to about two-thirds of the total (67), which might in part, if not wholly, have been avoided. When mothers can be taught to realize the fragile nature of their infants' lives, the necessity for their food to consist of breast milk rather than of the numberless preparations sold as substitutes for it, their susceptibility to cold and to infectious diseases, then may we hope that the number of deaths amongst infants will diminish.

These deaths were distributed among the four townships in the following manner: Withington had 29, out of 238 births, or 12 per cent.; Didsbury 15, out of 155 births, or 9·6 per cent.; Chorlton-cum-Hardy 13, out of 142 births, or 9 per cent.; and Burnage 10, out of 67 births, or 14·8.

The corresponding numbers of 1895 were as follows:—Withington 14, Didsbury 10, Chorlton-cum-Hardy 9, and Burnage 14. These figures show that during the past year the infantile mortality has improved in Withington and Didsbury, while remaining stationary in Chorlton-cum-Hardy and Burnage, the latter township retaining its unenviable position of possessing the heaviest death-rate.



TABLE IV.

*Deaths throughout the district in children under five years of age,  
from 1888 to 1896.*

CLASS OF DISEASE	NAME OF DISEASE	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896
I.—Zymotic diseases ...	Measles .....	...	5	6	1	5	...	7	5	1
	Scarlet fever .....	2	1	1	2	...	2	...	...	...
	Diphtheria .....	2	5	2	1	...	1	...	...	...
	Croup .....	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	3
	Whooping cough .....	9	7	3	7	10	3	1	2	9
	Enteric fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Typhus fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other or doubtful fevers .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diarrhoea .....	4	12	11	2	4	17	...	14	6
	Influenza .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
II.—Lung diseases ...	Bronchitis, pneumonia, and pleurisy .....	19	17	14	20	27	17	11	13	23
III.—Diseases not classified	.....	43	62	56	67	54	63	51	50	56
	Total .....	79	109	94	100	100	105	70	86	98

We next have to consider the causes of death in children under five years of age (Table IV.). The one death from measles occurred in an infant admitted from Withington into the Chorlton Union Workhouse. Whooping cough has been both prevalent and fatal during the year, but as it is not one of the infectious fevers of which notification has to be given, it is impossible to say what proportion the deaths bear to the number of cases of the disease which have existed. It should be noted that five out of the nine deaths have already appeared in the table relating to deaths under one year. The six deaths from diarrhoea have all been previously shown in the same table. Of the three deaths from croup, one occurred in Burnage, one in Didsbury and one in Whalley Range. No deaths occurred at this period of life from any of the other zymotic diseases.

The deaths from lung affections show a considerable increase over the numbers of the previous three years, and constitute almost a quarter of the total number of deaths at this age.

On examining the distribution of the 98 deaths under five years, we find that 41 occurred in Withington (one of them, already mentioned, in an infant admitted from that township into the Chorlton Union Workhouse), 27 in Didsbury, 18 in Chorlton-cum-Hardy, and 12 in Burnage.

The death-rates of children under five per thousand of the estimated populations in the four townships is given in the following table (Table V.), together with the corresponding figures of the Census years 1881 and 1891 :—

TABLE V.

<i>Death-rates per thousand of the population of the different townships in children under five years of age in 1896, compared with those of 1881 and 1891 (Census years).</i>			
TOWNSHIPS	1881	1891	1896
Withington.....	3·7	4·6	3·5
Didsbury .....	3·4	2·4	3·2
Chorlton-cum-Hardy .....	5·1	4·1	3·0
Burnage .....	1·1	8·6	6·1

It will be observed in this table that the relative mortality among children of the first three townships is about the same, but that Burnage, as in the case of infants under one year, still has the largest death-rate. As a matter of fact, the death-rate under five years of age in this township owes its magnitude to the number of deaths under one year, since the total under the former age is made up of ten under one year and two between one year and five years.

Table VI. shows the cause of death at all ages throughout the district, including nineteen deaths in the Chorlton Union Workhouse among persons coming from within the district.

TABLE VI.

*Deaths throughout the district in persons at all ages, from  
1888 to 1896.*

DISEASES	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896
Smallpox.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles .....	...	5	6	1	5	...	9	5	1
Scarlet fever .....	3	2	2	3	...	3	...	2	1
{ Diphtheria .....	4	14	4	2	...	5	1	...	...
{ Croup .....	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	4
Whooping cough .....	9	7	3	7	10	4	1	2	10
{ Typhus fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteric fever .....	4	4	2	...	4	4	1	2	2
{ Other or doubtful fevers.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa .....	4	12	13	3	4	18	1	14	6
Influenza .....	...	...	...	...	...	6	4	12	10
Rheumatic fever.....	5	...	2	2	2	...	1	2	2
Erysipelas ...	1	...	1	1	2	...	...	1	...
Pyæmia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Puerperal fever .....	2	1	...	...	1	2	1	...	...
Phthisis .....	22	28	28	34	23	24	25	27	25
Bronchitis, pneumonia, and pleurisy.....	49	53	73	88	84	51	47	53	69
Heart disease .....	23	24	20	31	15	26	24	22	23
Injuries .....	7	13	10	6	16	12	13	9	11
Other diseases not classi- fied .....	148	155	146	185	174	174	153	178	151
Total number of deaths.....	281	318	311	363	340	330	284	329	315

This table shows us that more than twenty per cent. of the deaths during the year have been the result of lung affections, not including phthisis, and that heart disease and consumption each form seven per cent. of the total number. Influenza and whooping cough have been the most fatal of epidemic diseases, the number of deaths forming in each case three per cent. of the total.

If the deaths classified in the table be further analysed, we find their distribution in the various townships as follows :—

TABLE VII.

Township	Estimated Population	Total number of deaths	General death-rate	Deaths from zymotic diseases	Zymotic death-rate
Withington .....	11,470	137	11·9	17	1·4
Didsbury .....	8,270	88	10·6	9	1·0
Chorlton-cum-Hardy ...	5,822	62	10·6	5	0·8
Burnage.....	1,938	28	14·4	3	1·5

The deaths from zymotic diseases mentioned in this table are comprised in the eleven diseases at the beginning of Table VI.

The zymotic death-rate for the year of the whole district is 1·2, which number is considerably larger than in the year 1895, when it was 0·9.

## II.

*A Summary of the action taken during the year for preventing the spread of disease.*

*Smallpox.*—No cases of smallpox were reported in 1896.

*Measles.*—At the close of the year 1895, there were many cases of this disease in existence in the townships of Didsbury and Withington; and, as will be seen upon examining Table VIII., there were still many fresh cases reported in these townships, especially in the latter, in the beginning of 1896.

TABLE VIII.  
*Cases of measles in 1896.*

	Withington	Didsbury	Chorlton-cum-Hardy	Burnage	Totals
January .....	37	11	...	...	48
February .....	5	2	1	...	8
March .....	3	5	1	...	9
April .....	5	1	1	...	7
May .....	2	...	3	...	5
June .....	1	2	1	...	4
July .....	1	9	1	...	11
August .....	...	1	1	...	2
September .....	...	6	2	...	8
October .....	...	14	...	...	14
November .....	...	2	...	...	2
December .....	2	2	...	...	4
	56	55	11	...	122

The year, however, has been marked by a comparative freedom from this disease, and in one instance only has its spread been traceable to a school. In this connection there were twelve children suffering from the disease, and it is interesting to map out the clear course taken by the infection. Two children living in Didsbury sickened with measles on the same day (June 24th), but, the disease not being detected, they still continued to attend the school in question in an infectious condition—one until June 26th, and the other until June 27th, these dates inclusive. On July 7th, that is, about ten days later, two children at the school, of different families, commenced with the disease, one of them continuing to attend until July 9th; and on the 8th the fifth case commenced in a child who came to the school from Chorlton-cum-Hardy. This boy continued at school until July 11th, the day before the rash appeared—that is to say, he mixed with the scholars for three days while in an infectious condition. It is not surprising, therefore, that on July 17th, that is, after another interval of about ten days, another case showed itself, and the day following another, and finally, on July 20th, the last occurred. The remaining four cases, making up the dozen, occurred in three of the families from the infection being carried to children at home who did not attend that particular school.

This small epidemic shows the difficulty felt by the teachers of schools in distinguishing the children who are sick from those who are healthy. Although the authorities of the school were at once warned of the occurrence of the first two cases, three of the other children who subsequently suffered from measles were allowed to attend while in an infectious condition—one child for two days, and two children for three days each. As I have remarked in previous reports, it seems hopeless to expect that unskilled observers should always succeed in picking out children with the early symptoms of the disease upon them, especially as the complaint may be very mild in character.

In some cases it appears desirable to have the children in schools inspected daily by a medical man for a short period after the removal of an infectious pupil. It would hardly be necessary



to commence the inspection before the end of the week after the child has left, nor continue it for more than a week. As every school authority in the district concerned in a case of measles is warned forthwith of its occurrence, it would not be difficult for those wishing to stamp out the disease to make arrangements to have the children reviewed in this manner.

As in previous years, printed precautions for checking the spread of the disease have been left at the houses where the cases existed as soon as they have been reported.

*Scarlet Fever.*—The total number of cases of scarlet fever was greater than in the previous year, but at no time has it been possible to say that an epidemic was present. In fact, although the disease has never been entirely absent from the district, it has been to some extent distributed throughout the townships, with

TABLE IX.  
*Cases of scarlet fever in 1896.*

	Withington	Didsbury	Chorlton-cum-Hardy	Burnage	Totals	Number removed to Hospital
January .....	...	...	1	1	2	2
February .....	1	1	...	...	2	...
March .....	1	...	1	...	2	...
April .....	...	3	2	...	5	...
May .....	1	...	4	...	5	3
June.....	1	3	9	...	13	9
July .....	8	3	9	...	20	11
August.....	5	3	9	...	17	8
September .....	1	1	...	...	2	...
October .....	2	...	8	...	10	7
November .....	8	1	6	1	16	3
December .....	7	13	6	...	26	17
	35	28	55	2	120	60



the exception of Burnage, which has almost escaped. During the last two months of the year an increase in the number has been observed, and at the time of writing this report the disease has not shown any tendency to decline.

In June, a child in Chorlton-cum-Hardy experienced an attack of scarlet fever which was unrecognised for a time, and the child was allowed to walk about the village while in an infectious condition for nearly a week. His brother, however, then sickened with the same complaint and a medical man was called in, and both children were promptly removed to Monsall Hospital. One can hardly be surprised at the prevalence of scarlet fever for some time after such an unfortunate occurrence.

Neither the schools of the district nor the milk supply appear to have acted as causes of the spread of the disease. The schools and laundries, when connected with any of the cases, have immediately been apprised of their occurrence and the usual printed precautions have been supplied to the houses where the fever has appeared. Thorough disinfection of the premises has been carried out in every instance on the termination of the fever or on the removal of the patient to hospital.

Two cases of scarlet fever proved fatal in Monsall Hospital.

*Diphtheria and membranous croup.*—The number of cases of diphtheria which occurred during the year compares very favourably with the corresponding figures of the previous two years. No death from the disease was recorded either in the district or in the hospital. There appeared to be no connection between the cases and either the milk supply or schools. Three patients who were removed to hospital on account of the suspicious character of their throats were found to be suffering from tonsillitis, one of them probably of a scarlatinal nature.

TABLE X.

*Cases of diphtheria in 1896.*

	Withington	Didsbury	Chorlton-cum-Hardy	Burnage	Totals	Number removed to Hospital
January .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
February .....	I	...	I	...	2	I
March .....	...	...	3	...	3	...
April .....	...	...	3	I	4	...
May .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
June.....	...	...	I	...	I	...
July .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
August.....	...	I	...	...	I	...
September .....	...	...	I	...	I	...
October .....	...	...	I	...	I	...
November .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
December .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
	I	I	IO	I	I3	I

On the notification of the disease the householders were provided with printed precautions, and any schools or laundries connected were warned. On the termination of the cases the same routine of disinfection was carried out as has been mentioned with regard to scarlet fever.

A very important new departure was initiated in November by the Council, when an arrangement with the Council of the Owens

College and Professor Delépine was effected for the bacteriological examination of material obtained from the throats of patients suspected to be suffering from diphtheria. A copy of the circular issued to the medical men in the district and surrounding parts is appended to this report, and explains the method in which this arrangement may be made use of. As a help to diagnosis and as a means of sparing unnecessary trouble, annoyance and expense to the ratepayers, I do not think the advantages of the plan can be over-estimated.

Four cases of membranous croup were notified during the year, all of them proving fatal. The houses were disinfected as previously described.

*Whooping Cough.*—Beyond the ten deaths from this disease which were reported by the Registrar, no information has reached the Authority of any cases ; but, judging by the mortality, one has good ground for thinking that the complaint has been very extensively prevalent.

*Typhus Fever.*—No cases were reported.

*Enteric Fever.*—It will already have been observed that two fatal cases of this disease occurred in the district during the year. A third death took place in Monsall Hospital in a patient removed from Didsbury.

Although the number of deaths is greater than in 1895, the total number of cases of the disease is very much smaller than in that year, when it was 20 ; in 1894 it was 13 ; and in 1893 it was 16. This is a favourable condition of affairs, which it is to be hoped will continue. The provision of special pails for the reception of the evacuations of the patients must be regarded as an excellent means of preventing the contamination of the soil about the affected houses or the contents of the sewers ; but as the diagnosis of the disease can rarely be made before the end of the first week,

TABLE XI.

*Cases of enteric fever in 1896.*

	Withington	Didsbury	Chorlton-cum-Hardy	Burnage	Totals	Number removed to Hospital
January .....	...	...	...	...	..	...
February .....	...	...	...	...	..	...
March .....	I	I	...	...	2	...
April.....	I	...	...	...	I	...
May .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
June.....	...	...	I	...	I	I
July .....	...	I	...	...	I	I
August .....	...	I	...	...	I	...
September .....	...	...	I	...	I	...
October .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
November .....	I	I	...	...	2	...
December .....	I	...	...	...	I	...
	4	4	2	...	10	2

and frequently not even then, the precaution is of course not taken until after that period, when the case has been notified to the authority. Under these circumstances, it is satisfactory to be able to state that a method of diagnosis is now being tested by which it is more than probable that the nature of the disease may be declared at least by the seventh day. The method may be thus briefly described :—A minute quantity of serum of the blood of

the patient is placed under the microscope in contact with a few drops of a culture of typhoid bacillus. If the patient be suffering from enteric or typhoid fever, the bacilli become rapidly motionless, and soon become massed together in clumps. If on the other hand healthy blood is used, or the blood of a patient affected by any other disease, the bacilli continue to move about most actively, and are not collected together in masses. This interesting phenomenon has been carefully investigated by Professor Delépine of the Owens College, and arrangements with him have already been entered into by the Public Health Department of Manchester for the diagnosis of doubtful cases of enteric fever by this method.

On the termination of the cases the water-closets have been washed down with corrosive sublimate solution, and the ashpits have been emptied, and their walls and floors washed with the same solution.

*Diarrhœa.*—No cases have been notified except the six which proved fatal and were reported to me in the Registrar's weekly returns. These have already been commented upon.

*Erysipelas.*—Seventeen cases of this disease were reported during the year: eight in Withington, five in Chorlton-cum-Hardy, and four in Didsbury. None were followed by a fatal termination. One patient was removed to the Chorlton Union Hospital. It was ascertained in each case that no midwife was in attendance.

*Puerperal Fever.*—One case of puerperal fever occurred during the year. No midwife was connected with it.

*Inspection of houses after cases of fever.*—The sanitary condition of the house is always investigated on the occurrence of any case of fever (inclusive of measles), and any defects found are reported to the Council. Printed precautions are supplied to each house as early as possible after the notification of the fever.

*Disinfection.*—The number of houses disinfected after infectious fevers in 1896 amounted to 123. The total number of articles stoved by the Manchester Corporation on behalf of the Council was 4,051, and consisted of the following:—Beds, 182; mattresses, 272; pillows, 480; blankets, 356; counterpanes, 134; carpets, 390; various articles of clothing, 1,162; and sundries, 375.

*Patients Removed to Monsall Hospital.*

Scarlet fever.....	60
Diphtheria .....	1
Enteric fever .....	2
Tonsillitis.....	3
	<hr/>
	66



## III.

*An account of the Sanitary state of the district generally at the end of the year.*

*Zymotic disease.*—Since the beginning of 1897 scarlet fever has continued to be reported from various parts of the district, and at the present time there appears to be some danger of an epidemic occurring in Didsbury. There still remain seven houses which have not yet been disinfected after fevers notified in 1896, but this measure will be carried out as soon as the cases have terminated.

*Water Supply.*—Pumps still exist in various outlying parts of the district, which are too far distant for Manchester water to be supplied to the houses. In one instance, the water of the pump having been condemned and the pump itself labelled to prevent persons using the water for drinking purposes, the tenants of three cottages are compelled to carry water from a neighbouring farm, which is situated more than a quarter of a mile away. In all the closely-populated parts there is a good supply of Manchester water.

*Drainage of the district.*—Certain parts of the district are still unprovided with sewers, as mentioned in previous reports. These parts, situated at a distance from the centres of population, have only a few houses, and it has not yet been considered necessary to extend the sewers to them. The drainage from these houses is carried into cesspools, and in some cases into the streams.



## IV.

*An account of the enquiries made by the Officer of Health as to conditions injurious to health existing in the district, and of the proceedings relating to such conditions, in which he has taken part or advised under the Public Health Act 1875.*

It will be gathered from the summary below that a very large number of houses and other premises have been inspected during the year, and that the work of improving the sanitary condition of the district has not undergone any diminution. A glance at the following census figures shows the rate at which the population is increasing :—1871, 9,066 ; 1881, 15,234 ; 1891, 23,838 ; and, with a corresponding increase in the number of houses, it is easy to see that the work of the Health Department must be steadily growing.

Together with the increase in the population, there is a development going on in the minds of the ratepayers as regards sanitary requirements. Very properly, the indifference which formerly prevailed as to the healthy condition or otherwise of their houses has given place, in many persons, to anxiety and, although this feeling perhaps leads some of them to attribute too many diseases to the state of their drains, it none the less acts beneficially, since it causes them to make early complaint to the Sanitary Authority on the occasion of any nuisance arising.

An admirable step has been taken during the year in the appointment of an "Inspector of Sanitary Alterations," whose duty it is to supervise all work carried out under notice from the Health Committee, and to test the drains relayed under these notices before they are covered up. He is held responsible for the proper execution of the work.

The substitution of water-closets for foul privies and ashpits in the immediate proximity of houses is still going on, and a considerable number (61) of water-closets have been constructed in lieu of privies during the year, greatly to the improvement of the sanitary condition of the houses. But few new houses now being

constructed have privy-ashpits connected with them, water-closets and movable receptacles being strongly recommended to builders by the Surveyor's department.

*Summary of action of the Health Committee during the year.*

Notices served for the abatement of nuisances, such as foul and ill-constructed drains, closets, cesspools, waste pipes connected with the drains, etc. ....	201
Notices, letters, or verbal instructions on account of animals kept so as to be a nuisance ....	8
Notice on account of filthy premises ....	1
Notices, letters, or verbal instructions on account of injurious and foul accumulations :	
Nightsoil tip ....	1
Manure heaps ....	6
Other injurious accumulations... ..	3
Notices under Dairies and Cowsheds Act ....	10
Notice under the Factories and Workshop Act ....	1
Houses condemned as unfit for human habitation ....	0
Reported overcrowding ....	5
Reported nuisance in connection with slaughter-house ...	1
Reported nuisances in connection with the sewers ...	0
Reported nuisance in connection with stables ...	1
Properties reported, but no action taken ...	11
Back passages reported and referred to the Highways Committee ...	6
Filthy streams reported ....	8
Nuisances abated without notices ....	4
Premises inspected as to sanitary arrangements and found satisfactory	5
Houses inspected as to their sanitary arrangements after cases of infectious fever ... ..	220
Recommendations to owners for sanitary alterations ....	20
Verbal instructions to alter sanitary arrangements of houses or premises	8
Inspections of graves at Chorlton-cum-Hardy Parish Church ...	4
Animals passed as being fit for human food ....	0
Water analysis ....	0
Milk analysis (7 good quality ; 1 poor quality but probably genuine) ...	8
Food analysis ....	0
Prosecution on account of impure milk ....	0
,,       ,,       ,,       water ....	0
,,       ,,       ,,       pig keeping (total costs, £4 15s. 6d.)	2
Slaughtering on unlicensed premises (costs £1 5s. 6d) ...	1

Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ fine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Chimney firing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ „ fines for (amounting to 13s.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Smoke-testing of drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21 houses	
Properties reported as being without proper water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Notice to enter premises under section 41 of the Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Notices to provide water supply to houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

The four inspections of graves at the Chorlton-cum-Hardy Parish Church resulted in the interments being sanctioned.

There are no offensive trades being carried on in the district.

Inspections have taken place of all premises reported to the Authority by H.M. Inspector of Factories and, where necessary, reports of their sanitary condition have been submitted to the Health Committee of the Council.

Notice has also been sent to H.M. Inspector when any premises, not previously registered, have been opened as factories or workshops.

*Particulars as regards milk sellers, bakehouses,  
slaughter-houses, &c.*

Registered milk sellers in the district	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
Registered cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Number of bakehouses (W6, D8, C9)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Number of slaughter-houses (W3, D2, C1)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

The dairies and cowsheds of the district have been visited at frequent intervals during the year and, as regards the latter, particular attention has been given to the amount of air space allowed for the cows. Notices have been issued for the provision of 800 cubic feet for each cow, as specified in the bye-laws, in all cases when the air space has been found to be deficient.

The bakehouses have been regularly inspected and, when necessary, the occupiers have been called upon to cleanse and

limewash the walls. There are now ten bakehouses in cellars below the ground level instead of twelve as mentioned in the report for 1895. One cellar bakehouse, built since January 1st, 1896, was not allowed to be used.—(Factories and Workshop Act, 1895, section 27.)

The slaughter-houses have been inspected at frequent intervals and found to be in a satisfactory condition. The reported nuisance in connection with a slaughter-house mentioned in the summary was caused by the receptacles for offal being dilapidated. A notice was served for their repair and the nuisance was thus abated.

*Ashpits.*—The number emptied during the year is as follows :—Ashpits with privies, 4,657 ; ashpits without privies, 8,504 ; movable receptacles, 5,677 ; total, 18,838.

## APPENDIX.

*Copy of Circular issued to Medical Practitioners.*

Withington Urban District Council,  
Town Hall, Withington,  
near Manchester,  
November 21st, 1896.

Dear Sir,—I beg to inform you that the Withington District Council has arranged with the Council of the Owens College and with Professor Delépine for the bacteriological examination of material obtained from the throats of patients in doubtful cases of diphtheria.

Application for a special tube for transmission of the material should be made to the Withington Town Hall, when it will be forwarded by messenger either to the Medical Attendant's residence or to that of the patient, as desired. The tube can then be sent to the Owens College by post or by the messenger if the specimen is taken at once.

Full particulars of each case should be given upon the printed form supplied with the tube otherwise no examination will be made.

The diagnosis can only be obtained through the Town Hall, Withington. Professor Delépine wishes this to be clearly understood.

The expense of the tubes and examination will be defrayed by the Withington District Council.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

T. C. RAILTON.

It is important to note that the specimen should not be taken immediately after the application to the throat of any antiseptic.

Specimens reaching the College before 3 p.m. will be reported upon within 24 hours, but delay will be occasioned if they are received after that time. No specimen can be examined after noon on Saturdays and no report can be given on Sundays.



(A) Table of DEATHS during the year 1896 in the Urban Sanitary District of Withington, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE																		TOTAL				
	At all Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up-wards		Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	FEVERS					Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	Heart Disease		Influenza	Injuries	All other Diseases	
													Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal														
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Withington.....	121	28	12	3	8	46	24	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	...	...	10	...	...	...	22	40	
									...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	19	8	5	3	34	81	
Didsbury.....	87	15	12	1	3	37	19	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	7	...	...	1	13	27	
									...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	9	12	5	2	3	27	60	
Chorlton-cum-Hardy .....	61	13	5	3	3	21	16	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	5	...	...	1	11	18	
									...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	7	5	3	1	23	43		
Burnage .....	27	10	2	...	2	6	7	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	8	12	
									...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	1	...	1	7	15		
Among persons admitted } from the district into the Chorlton Union Workhouse.....	19	1	...	...	...	9	9	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
									...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	4	...	...	1	6	18	
TOTALS .....	315	67	31	7	16	119	75	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	9	6	...	25	23	46	23	10	2	54	98
									...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	9	97	217	
Deaths occurring outside the district among per- sons belonging thereto (at Monsall Fever Hospital) .....	3	...	1	...	1	1	...	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
									...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto : (Chorlton Union Workhouse)	585	25	20	6	37	323	174	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	6	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	31	45	
									...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	131	134	44	...	3	224	540	

(B) Table of POPULATION, BIRTHS and of NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1896 in the Urban Sanitary District of Withington, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES	POPULATION AT ALL AGES		Registered Births	Aged under 5 or over 5	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH												NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL										
	Census, 1891	Estimated to middle of 1896			Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	FEVERS					Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	FEVERS					Cholera	Erysipelas
									Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal								Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal		
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Withington.....	10318	11470	238	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	8	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	37	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
					...	27	1	1	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	19	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Didsbury.....	7176	8270	155	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	8	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
					...	20	1	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	36	...	9	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Chorlton-cum-Hardy .....	4741	5822	142	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
					...	45	10	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	5	6	...	32	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Burnage .....	1603	1938	67	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
					...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS .....	23838	27500	602	Under 5. 5 upwds.	...	26	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
					...	94	13	1	...	10	...	...	1	...	17	61	...	49	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...











